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Yemen: Ibrahim al-Hamdi's New Team—

Feb 75

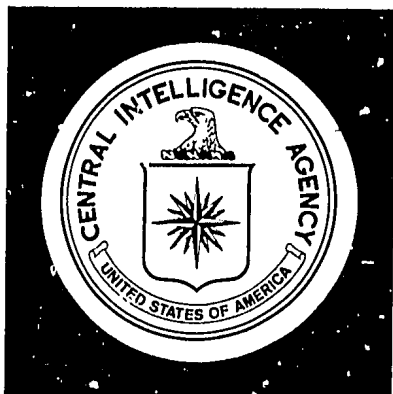
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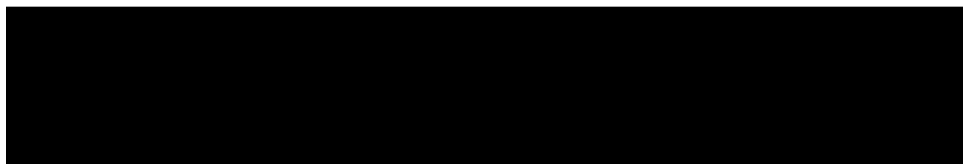
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*Yemen: Ibrahim al-Hamdi's New Team—
Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani
and Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj*

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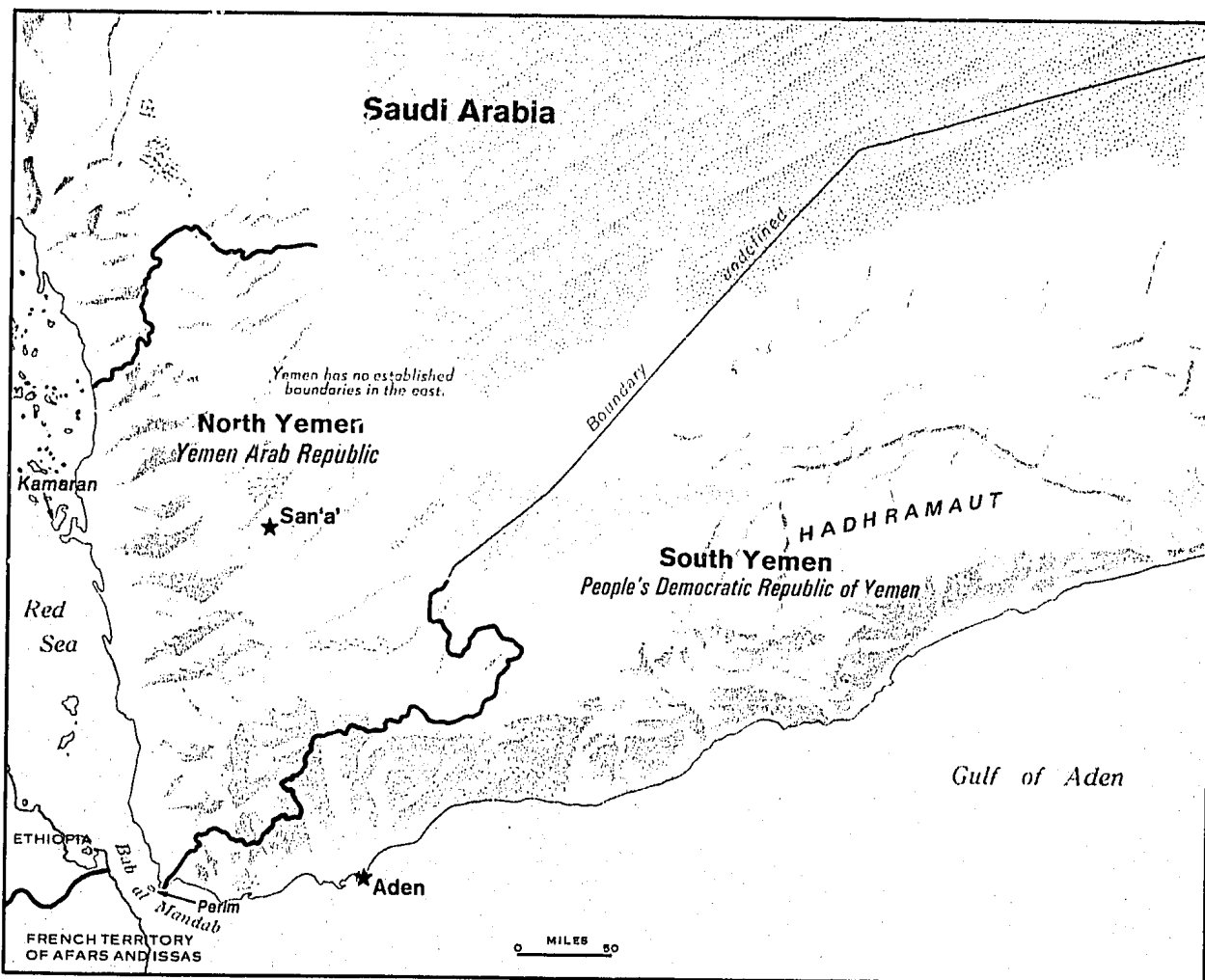
PREFACE

On 16 January 1975 Ibrahim al-Hamdi, Chairman of the military Command Council that seized power in a bloodless coup on 13 June 1974, removed Muhsin al-'Ayni as Prime Minister. Hamdi publicly stated that 'Ayni's government had failed to deal with Yemen's economic and political problems. 'Ayni's ouster was also the result of a power struggle between the conservative forces of Hamdi and 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, paramount shaykh of the Hashid Confederation, on the one hand, and the leftist forces of 'Ayni and Sinan Abu Luhum, former Governor of Hudayda Province, on the other.

On 23 January Hamdi named as Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, a young technocrat with limited political experience. In the Cabinet he formed 2 days later, 'Abd al-Ghani appointed the prominent and powerful 'Abdallah al-Asnaj as Foreign Minister. Asnaj, who is close to Hamdi, could easily outshine the inexperienced Prime Minister. Hamdi, however, continues to hold the final authority in Yemen.

This report was prepared by the Central Reference Service and was coordinated within CIA as appropriate. Comments and questions may be directed

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